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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

Sam Gabrielle,	Case No:
Plaintiff,	
v.	Complaint for Damages and Injunctive Relief Pursuant to the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227, et seq.
Empower Group Partners Inc.,	
Defendant.	Jury Trial Demanded

INTRODUCTION

1. Sam Gabrielle (“Plaintiff”) brings this Complaint for damages, injunctive relief, and any other available legal or equitable remedies, resulting from the illegal actions of Empower Group Partners Inc. (“Defendant”), in negligently and/or

intentionally contacting Plaintiff on Plaintiff's cellular telephone, in violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227, et seq. (the "TCPA"), thereby invading Plaintiff's privacy. Plaintiff alleges as follows upon personal knowledge as to himself and his own acts and experiences, and, as to all other matters, upon information and belief, including investigation conducted by his attorneys.

2. The TCPA was designed to prevent calls like the ones described within this complaint, and to protect the privacy of citizens like Plaintiff. "Voluminous consumer complaints about abuses of telephone technology – for example, computerized calls dispatched to private homes – prompted Congress to pass the TCPA." *Mims v. Arrow Fin. Servs., LLC*, 132 S. Ct. 740, 744 (2012).

3. In enacting the TCPA, Congress intended to give consumers a choice as to how creditors and telemarketers may call them, and made specific findings that "[t]echnologies that might allow consumers to avoid receiving such calls are not universally available, are costly, are unlikely to be enforced, or place an inordinate burden on the consumer. TCPA, Pub.L. No. 102–243, § 11. Toward this end, Congress found that

[b]anning such automated or prerecorded telephone calls to the home, except when the receiving party consents to receiving the call or when such calls are necessary in an emergency situation affecting the health and safety of the consumer, is the only effective means of protecting telephone consumers from this nuisance and privacy invasion.

Id. at § 12; *see also Martin v. Leading Edge Recovery Solutions, LLC*, 2012 WL 3292838, at* 4 (N.D. Ill. Aug. 10, 2012) (citing Congressional findings on TCPA's purpose).

4. Congress also specifically found that "the evidence presented to the Congress indicates that automated or prerecorded calls are a nuisance and an invasion of privacy, regardless of the type of call. . . ." *Id.* at §§ 12-13. *See also, Mims*, 132 S. Ct. at 744.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

5. This Court has federal question jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331 because this case arises out of a violation of the TCPA, a federal law.
6. Venue is proper in the United States District Court for the District of Nevada pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391 because (i) at all times relevant to this matter Plaintiff resided within this judicial district; (ii) the harm complained of herein occurred within this judicial district; and (iii) many of the acts and transactions giving rise to this action occurred in this district because Defendant is a foreign corporation doing business in Nevada and
 - (a) conducts business in this district and has intentionally availed itself to the laws and markets within this district;
 - (b) does substantial business within this district;
 - (c) is subject to personal jurisdiction in this district because it has availed itself of the laws of Nevada; and
 - (d) caused harm to Plaintiff within this district.

PARTIES

7. Plaintiff, at all times mentioned herein, was a resident of Clark County, Nevada. Plaintiff is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a “person” as defined by 47 U.S.C. §153(39).
8. Upon information and belief, Defendant is, and at all times mentioned herein was, corporation doing business in Nevada, registered with the New York Secretary of State, and is a “person as defined by 47 U.S.C. §153(39).
9. Upon information and belief, Defendant’s website is <https://www.goempowergroup.com>. Defendant markets loans to businesses.
10. Upon information and belief, Defendant is a company and owner (or frequent user) of one or more of the telephone numbers used by Defendant to make telephone calls to Plaintiff in violation of the TCPA.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

11. Within the four years prior to filing the instant complaint, Plaintiff received numerous calls from Defendant (“the calls”).
12. Starting in approximately late 2016 to early 2017, Defendant began making phone calls to Plaintiff’s cellular telephone even though Plaintiff had never had any previous business relationship with Defendant.
13. Defendant called Plaintiff numerous times on Plaintiff’s cellular telephone ending in 1686.
14. Plaintiff also received numerous emails from Defendant within same time period Plaintiff was receiving calls from Defendant.
15. The calls from Defendant came from numerous different phone numbers, including, but not limited to, 718-475-4969.
16. Plaintiff never dealt with Defendant in any manner, including any business with Defendant.
17. At no time did Plaintiff give prior written, express consent for Defendant to contact Plaintiff on his cellular telephone.
18. Indeed, Plaintiff told Defendant multiple times to stop calling.
19. Specifically, Plaintiff requested that Defendant cease all calls to his cellular telephone including, but not limited to, in 2016 and 2017.
20. Specifically, but not limited to, on or about February 22, 2017, Plaintiff responded to one of Defendant’s numerous emails: “[p]lease stop emailing and spamming me. I have instructed repeatedly to remove me from both your email and call list.”
21. Even after the Plaintiff’s February email, Defendant continued to email and call Plaintiff.
22. Upon information and belief, Defendant placed the calls using an “automatic telephone dialing system,” (“ATDS”) as defined by 47 U.S.C. §227(a)(1), and as prohibited by 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(1)(A).

- 1 23. The calls were not for emergency purposes as defined by 47 U.S.C. §227(b)
2 (1)(A)(i).
- 3 24. Upon information and belief, the ATDS used by Defendant has the capacity to
4 store or produce telephone numbers to be called using a random or sequential
5 number generator. Furthermore, during one of the many calls by Defendant,
6 Defendant told Plaintiff that the calls were automated and made from a
7 computer system.
- 8 25. Upon information and belief, the ATDS used by Defendant has the capacity
9 to, and does, dial telephone numbers stored as a list or in a database without
10 human intervention.
- 11 26. The calls were placed to a telephone number assigned to a cellular telephone
12 service for which Plaintiff incurs charges.
- 13 27. The calls were unwanted by Plaintiff.
- 14 28. Defendant did not have prior, express written consent to place the calls to
15 Plaintiff.
- 16 29. Through Defendant's aforementioned conduct, Plaintiff suffered an invasion
17 of a legally protected interest in privacy, which is specifically addressed and
18 protected by the TCPA.
- 19 30. Plaintiff received numerous unwanted calls within the four years preceding
20 the filing of the complaint while he was at work and at home.
- 21 31. Plaintiff was personally affected by Defendant's aforementioned conduct
22 because Plaintiff was frustrated and distressed that Defendant interrupted
23 Plaintiff with an unwanted calls using an ATDS and prerecorded voices.
- 24 32. The calls forced Plaintiff to live without the utility of his cellular phone by
25 occupying his cellular telephone with unwanted calls, causing a nuisance and
26 lost time.
- 27 33. The calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number were unsolicited by Plaintiff
28 and without Plaintiff's permission or consent.

34. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and there upon alleges that the calls were made by Defendant and/or Defendant's agent(s), with Defendant's permission, knowledge, control and for Defendant's benefit.

35. Through the aforementioned conduct, Defendant has violated 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(1)(A)(iii).

36. Further, Defendant's violations caused Plaintiff to suffer a real and concrete harm because when Defendant called Plaintiff, Plaintiff's time was wasted on phone calls with Defendant when Defendant had no right to contact Plaintiff. Defendant also consumed and wasted Plaintiff's cellphone battery life. Plaintiff also suffered from frustration and annoyance which the TCPA was enacted to prevent. *See, e.g., Mey v. Got Warranty, Inc.*, No. 5:15-CV-101, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 84972, at *8 (N.D.W. Va. June 30, 2016) ("[S]uch calls also cause intangible injuries, regardless of whether the consumer has a prepaid cell phone or a plan with a limited number of minutes. The main types of intangible harm that unlawful calls cause are (1) invasion of privacy, (2) intrusion upon and occupation of the capacity of the consumer's cell phone, and (3) wasting the consumer's time or causing the risk of personal injury due to interruption and distraction.").

**FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION
NEGLIGENT VIOLATIONS OF THE TCPA
47 U.S.C. §227 *et seq.***

37. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all above paragraphs as though fully stated herein.

38. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendant constitute numerous and multiple negligent violations of the TCPA, including but not limited to each and every one of the above-cited provisions of 47 U.S.C. §227, *et seq.*

39. As a result of Defendant's negligent violations of 47 U.S.C. §227 *et seq.*, Plaintiff is entitled to an award of \$500.00 in statutory damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(3)(B).

40. Plaintiff is also entitled to, and seeks, injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.

**SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION
KNOWING AND/OR WILLFUL VIOLATIONS OF THE TCPA
47 U.S.C. §227 *et seq.***

41. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all above paragraphs as though fully stated herein.

42. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendant constitute numerous and multiple knowing and/or willful violations of the TCPA, including but not limited to each and every one of the above-cited provisions of 47 U.S.C. §227, *et seq.*

43. As a result of Defendant's knowing and/or willful violations of 47 U.S.C. §227 *et seq.*, Plaintiff is entitled to an award of \$1,500.00 in statutory damages for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C).

44. Plaintiff is also entitled to, and seeks, injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Plaintiff respectfully requests the Court to grant Plaintiff the following relief against Defendant:

- Provide injunctive relief prohibiting Defendant's unlawful conduct in the future, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(3)(A);
- Award statutory damages of \$500.00 for each of Defendant's negligent violations of 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(1), pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(3)(B);
- Award statutory damages of \$1,500.00 for each of Defendant's knowing and/or willful violations of 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(1), pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(3)(C); and
- Any other relief the Court deems just and proper.

TRIAL BY JURY

1 45. Pursuant to the Seventh Amendment to the Constitution of the United States
2 of America, Plaintiff is entitled to, and demands, a trial by jury
3

4 DATED this ____ day of November 2018.

5 Respectfully submitted,
6

7 **KAZEROUNI LAW GROUP, APC**

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